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Written statement* submitted by The Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 September 2018]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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Please recycle

"Terrorism Folder" – What did Qatar do in Syrian Arab Republic, Libya and Yemen?

Although the United Nations are concerned with the terrorism issue along with the procedures of how to combat it as being a crime threatens the most important and fundamental human right namely right to life, yet the states which support terrorism and use it as a tool of political and economic pressure and to implement their regional and international agendas benefit from the lack of binding international convention for all countries around the world to stop supporting and funding terrorism whether by material or moral forms.

Till now the member states in the UN are negotiating about proposal of comprehensive convention in regard to international terrorism, while they actually had approved the UN International Strategy to Combat Terrorism in 8th September 2006. This convention is in a form of decision and work plan attached with a unique international instrument which – as mentioned – will strengthen the national, regional and international efforts that aim at combating terrorism. These principles state the criminalization of terroristic crimes and to be subject to punishment according to law, litigating the committers or extraditing them, eliminating the sources of terrorism and their funders, calling the member states to take necessary procedures to stop terrorism, assuring the necessity of cooperation among all member states, sharing information supporting and help each other as much as possible regarding combating and stopping terroristic acts in addition to investigating and litigating them.

By applying these principles on Qatar, we find out that Qatar totally ignores these texts and principles. As Qatar is still supporting and financing a number of terroristic organizations in the Middle East on the top of which is Muslim Brotherhood Group. However; the reasons behind the Qatari support to terrorism have converted to be a political ideology and doctrine which have been rooted in all Qatari military, security and diplomatic institutions and even charity ones. Thus the huge financial surplus which Qatar gets (the state with low population density) has become a catastrophe for MENA because it was the reason behind the unprecedented increased terrorism in the region accompanied by the appearance of many terroristic groups with different names and titles which all are supported by Qatar with funds and weapons; the matter which pushes all Arab countries to boycott Qatar to besiege its terroristic activities. As a result, the accusations against Qatar have been increased as being a supporter of international terrorism and its obvious failure to control the Qatari funders for terroristic activities in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Libya. In addition, Qatar failed in take strict procedures against the financial terroristic networks in it.

When Qatar did not cooperate to implement the procedures of terrorism combating applied by Arab Spring Countries, it violated the International Convention to Suppress Terrorism Fund issued by the UN General Assembly Decision no. 109/54 in 9th December 1999 (the convention was issued in 10th January 2000). The convention's preamble assures the condemnation of all terroristic acts, techniques and practices as being criminal unjustified acts wherever they are committed and whoever are the committers. These terroristic acts also include the acts which expose the friendly relations among nations and countries to danger and threaten the regional security and safety of them.

The clause no. 3 (W) of the General Assembly Decision no. 51/210, dated 17 December1996, calls all states to take steps using all suitable internal direct and indirect means to stop and prohibit funding and supporting terrorists and terroristic organizations by charity, social or cultural organizations, in addition to organizations working in illegal activities such as illegal trafficking of weapons, drugs and money extortion, including the exploitation of some people for purposes of funding terroristic activities and thinking of, when necessary, approving organizational procedures to prevent the transactions of suspected funds as being transacted for terroristic acts and addressing these transactions.

In addition, the international law obliges the member states to limit the financial flow for terrorists by addressing the matter of threat in regard to financing terrorism on local and international levels to prevent the terroristic networks from fund and safe refuge. This is done through strengthening the states' legal, organizational, financial and investigatory capacities regarding the implementation of law in addition to the judicial capacities to combat funding of terrorism in order to face the challenges represented in terrorism funding. Thus the financial systems should be better protected against misuse by terrorism funders all over the world.

Qatar has long history in non-implementation of national decisions, the most prominent of which is the decision 2368 of 2017 in regard to Daaish Group, Al Qaida Organization and all people, groups and projects related to them. This decision highlights the necessity of taking procedures towards assets freezing, travel ban and embargo imposed on

weapons. Also the decision defines the criteria of insertion in the list of people and entities related to these terroristic organizations and assures the importance of combating money laundering, terrorism funding and weapons spread.

Qatar is sheltering the leaders of Muslim Brotherhood Group which – for many reasons – has been classified as terroristic group in the Russian Federation, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Recently, after reviewing various evidences, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has classified the two groups "Hasm" and "Lawaa Al Thawra" related to Muslim Brotherhood as two terroristic groups and blocked their activities; in addition to Yousef Al Qaradawy confession – one of the group members – of Osama Bn Laden and Abo Bakr Baghdadi belonging to Muslim Brotherhood Group.

Based on these previously mentioned points, Qatar has violated an important principle in the UN Strategy to Combat Terrorism which states that terroristic acts, techniques and practices with all their forms are activities aim at undermining human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threaten the regional safety and security of states and shake the stability of legally formed governments. The strategy also recommends the international community to take the necessary steps to strengthen the cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.

However; Qatar and its media channels support and disseminate the Group's ideas. In addition, they have close relations with groups such as Talban and some groups related to Al Qaida Organization. In addition, they support Al Houthi rebels in Yemen who fight governmental forces supported by Saudi Arabia and Emirates.

Qatar alleges that these groups are opponent to their governments in their countries and it support their democratic right, yet it did not investigate the evidences condemning them with terrorism which presented by the four countries for the whole world. The Qatari media bodies adopted its violence-inciting political discourse and disseminated false information against the four Arab countries. This religious inciting discourse had its effect in regard to the division of Al Sunna followers between Qatar and Arab states because of Doha support to Muslim Brotherhood Group. This group was the first and main reason in adopting the atmosphere for extremism and joining terroristic groups such as Daaish and Al Nasra Front as a number of the group members appear in Daaish videos and announce their involvement in Daaish activities. Some of them, after exiting from Libya and Syria, turned out to be a "wolf" threatening Europe and United States of America with killing and running over civilians.

Supported information with audio recordings were recently revealed about the Qatari government as it paid one billion dollars to terroristic organizations in Iraq after kidnapping 28 princes in 2015 by Said Group as the funds trans[illegible]ed to groups and members classified by the United States as being terrorists: Hazib Allah battalions in Iraq which killed Americans soldiers by putting bombs on the road side, the Gen Qasim Solimany who is the leader of revolutionary guards and who is subjected to the punishments of the United States and European Union and Tahrir Al Sham Body which was known as Al Nasra Front when it was affiliated to Al Qaida Organization in Syria. The hostages' crisis ended in April 2017 when a plane affiliated to the Qatari airlines flew to deliver fund[illegible] and get the hostages back. This is what was assured by Qatari officials although the Qatari airlines avoid commenting.

Yet, the crisis is deeper than this as it extends to the inside Qatar. When analyzing twitter accounts in Arabic, it is found out that Qatar is the biggest incubator for twitter accounts in Arabic for Daaish in the Arab and Islamic World and that 50% of the Qatar tweets are for Daaish. So if we link this with the terrorism list announced by Qatar itself and other Arab countries, we will find out that the most ratio among the accused belong to Qatar; the matter which reflects tolerant governing authorities with terroristic ideas and allowing the dissemination of these ideas among citizens without any supervision. In addition, Al Gezira Channel, owned by the Qatari government, welcomes the ideas of Sayed Qotib and Yousef Al Qaradawy. The channel also includes programs presenters belonging to Muslim Brotherhood Group who severely criticize the progressive and liberal ideas and resisting any new religious discourse through their media discourse so that the extremist ideas will be the supreme in the Arab and Islamic societies.

Qatar has long history in the list of terrorism in the UN on the top of which comes the Qatari funder and terroristic facilitator Al Sabiei who lives in Qatar. He provides the financial support to the leaders of Al Qaida Organizations before being arrested in March 2003. Since that he has provided the financial support to the leaders of Al Qaida Organizations in South Asia. In addition, he has worked with the senior facilitators of the organization to transport the extremist soldiers back to the organization to the training camps in South Asia and provides funds for them. He also was a link between Al Qaida organization and third parties in the Middle East. In 2011, Al Sabiei provided thousands of

dollars dedicated to the senior officials in Al Qaida Organization in Pakistan. His supportive funding activities for Al Qaida Organization continued till 2013.